

16
CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A spray container positioning device for use in positioning a spray container relative to a surface, comprising:

a light beam positioning arrangement for projecting at least one light beam toward the surface, for use in positioning the spray container and nozzle member

5 relative to the surface; and

a spray container mounting structure in association with the light beam positioning arrangement adapted for supporting the light beam positioning arrangement on the spray container.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the light beam positioning arrangement includes a light beam generator and an actuator arrangement for selectively operating the light beam generator.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the light beam generator is contained within a housing and the actuator arrangement comprises a switch associated with the housing.

4. The device of claim 2, wherein the spray container mounting structure comprises:

a handle arrangement adapted for selective engagement with the spray container; and

5 a manually operable trigger arrangement moveably mounted to the handle arrangement, wherein the trigger arrangement includes a manually engageable trigger area and a nozzle engagement member for operating the nozzle member in response to movement of the trigger area.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein the actuator arrangement is interconnected with the trigger arrangement for operating the light beam generator upon movement of the trigger arrangement so as to operate the nozzle member.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein the trigger arrangement includes a movable member and the actuator arrangement includes a movable contact which moves in response to movement to the movable member of the trigger arrangement for selectively actuating the light beam generator.

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7. The device of claim 6, wherein the actuator arrangement is responsive to movement of the manually operable trigger arrangement for generating at least one light beam when the nozzle arrangement member is moved so as to operate the nozzle member.

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8. The device of claim 4, wherein the handle arrangement includes a housing defining an internal cavity, and further comprising a power supply located within the internal cavity of the housing.

9. The device of claim 7, wherein the housing is engageable in varying positions on the handle arrangement for varying the position of the at least one light beam relative to the spray container.

10. The device of claim 4, wherein the actuator arrangement is constructed and arranged to operate the light beam generator when the trigger arrangement is in an initial position wherein, when the trigger arrangement is in the initial position, the nozzle engagement member is moved an amount insufficient to operate the nozzle member, for directing at least one light beam toward the surface before the liquid is discharged through the nozzle member, and wherein the trigger arrangement is further movable to a spray position in which the nozzle engagement member is positioned so as to operate the nozzle member to discharge liquid from the spray container toward the surface through the nozzle member, wherein the actuator arrangement is constructed and arranged to continue operation of the light beam generator when the trigger arrangement is in the spray position.

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11. The device of claim 3, wherein the spray container mounting structure is configured to attach to the spray container.

12. In a spray container operating mechanism releasably engageable with a spray container having a selectively operable nozzle member for discharging liquid contained within the spray container toward a surface, wherein the spray container operating mechanism includes a movable trigger mechanism selectively engageable with the nozzle member, the improvement comprising a light beam generator interconnected with the spray container operating mechanism for directing at least one light beam toward the surface, wherein the light beam provides a visual indication of the position of the spray container and nozzle member relative to the surface.

13. The improvement of claim 12, wherein the light beam generator is operable in response to an actuator arrangement, wherein the actuator arrangement interfaces with the movable trigger mechanism for operating the light beam generator in response to movement of the trigger mechanism.

14. The improvement of claim 13, wherein the actuator arrangement includes a movable contact member interconnected between the light beam generator and a power supply, wherein the movable contact member is movable in response to movement of the trigger mechanism.

15. The improvement of claim 12, wherein the light beam generator is operable to direct a pair of convergent light beams toward the surface.

16. The improvement of claim 12, wherein the light beam generator is contained within a housing, and wherein the spray container operating mechanism includes a series of walls, wherein the light beam generator housing is releasably engageable with at least one of the walls of the spray container operating mechanism.

17. The improvement of claim 16, wherein the light beam generator housing is releasably engageable with the walls of the spray container operating mechanism in two or more positions.

18. A method of positioning a spray container relative to a surface, wherein the spray container includes a nozzle member for discharging liquid contained within the spray container toward a surface, comprising the steps of:

mounting a light beam generator to the spray container;

directing at least one light beam from the light beam generator toward the surface, wherein the at least one light beam provides a visual indication of the position of the spray container and nozzle relative to the surface; and

depressing the nozzle member to discharge liquid from the spray container toward the surface while maintaining the position of the spray container and nozzle a predetermined distance from the surface as indicated by the at least one light beam.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the light beam generator is contained within a housing, and further comprising the step of varying the position of the light beam generator housing relative to the spray container for varying the orientation of the at least one light beam relative to the spray container.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of directing at least one light beam toward the surface is carried out by generating a pair of light beams which converge in a direction toward the surface, wherein the point of convergence of the light beams corresponds to an optimal distance of the spray container from the surface during spraying of the liquid from the spray container onto the surface through the nozzle member.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of mounting the light beam generator to the housing is carried out by releasably securing a mounting device to a side wall defined by the spray container.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of releasably securing the mounting device to the container includes releasably engaging a base member with the side wall, wherein the light beam generator is carried by the base member.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the base member is releasably engaged with the container side wall by means of a flexible retaining member engaged with the base member, wherein the base member and the flexible retaining member encircle the spray container side wall.

24. A method of positioning a spray container relative to a surface, wherein the spray container includes a nozzle member for discharging liquid contained within the spray container toward a surface, comprising the steps of:

engaging a handle arrangement with the spray container, wherein the handle arrangement includes a manually operable trigger mechanism for selectively actuating the nozzle member to discharge liquid from the spray container toward the surface; and

directing at least one light beam toward the surface, wherein the at least one light beam provides a visual indication of the position of the spray container and nozzle relative to the surface.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of directing at least one light beam toward the surface is carried out by actuating a light beam generator associated with the handle arrangement.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the step of directing at least one light beam toward the surface is carried out by operating the light beam generator in response to operation of the trigger mechanism of the handle arrangement.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of directing at least one light beam toward the surface is carried out by first directing the at least one light beam toward the surface by initial operation of the trigger mechanism prior to discharging

- liquid from the spray container through the nozzle member, and subsequently continuing
- 5 to direct the at least one light beam toward the surface when the trigger mechanism is operated so as to actuate the nozzle member to discharge liquid from the spray container onto the surface.

28. The method of claim 25, wherein the light beam generator is contained within a housing, and further comprising the step of varying the position of the light beam generator housing relative to the handle arrangement for varying the orientation of the at least one light beam relative to the spray container.

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29. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of directing at least one light beam toward the surface is carried out by generating a pair of light beams which converge in a direction toward the surface, wherein the point of convergence of the light beams corresponds to an optimal distance of the spray container from the surface during
- 5 spraying of the liquid from the spray container onto the surface through the nozzle member.